

19 June 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

I talked this morning with Congressman James Wadsworth, (R., N.Y.), regarding our position before the Committee on Expenditures. I told him we were somewhat concerned regarding the feeling of certain members of the Committee and some witnesses appearing before it that we were or might become an incipient Gestapo, or interested in domestic intelligence of any sort. I told him that we were considering addressing a letter to the Chairman, suggesting that a provision be included in the bill substantially in the form that it appears in the Presidential Directive, prohibiting any police or internal security or law enforcement powers. Mr. Wadsworth thought that it would be an excellent idea and endorsed it, although he thought that the feeling was not very general.

I then explained to Mr. Wadsworth our position on enabling legislation; and, while he stated that certain other agencies created by the bill had their functions spelled out, he seemed receptive to withholding any statement of functions and general authorities which we need until the proper time for our enabling act.

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I subsequently spoke with Mr. Clare Hoffman, Chairman of the Committee, (in the absence of his son, the General Counsel), and Mr. Hoffman stated that he would be pleased to receive any amendment we cared to offer, introduce it, and give it every consideration.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The witness at this morning's hearings on H.R. 2319 was Rear Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias, USN, Ret., who stated that he would like to testify on the intelligence provisions of the bill in executive session. It was agreed that this would be arranged.

During the questioning which followed Zacharias' prepared statement, Rep. Walter Judd, (R., Minn.), remarked that he agreed with the Admiral on the subject of intelligence, that he believed that it deserved more study than almost anything else in the bill.

Rep. Robert Rich, (R., Pa.), asked Zacharias his opinion of the Mundt bill authorizing the Voice of America program. "I believe that we must maintain the physical machinery which now exists," Zacharias replied, "because I am confident we will have to use it in the future. If that machinery is allowed to lapse, and if the provisions for that machinery are allowed to lapse, I am afraid there will be disintegration, and we will have difficulty in getting it started again.

"Whether or not it should be under the State Department is another matter. My personal feeling is that it should not, because it is going to be a source of continual embarrassment to the State Department. The Voice of America is -- we must call it what it is -- propaganda. Unfortunately the word propaganda has a poor connotation. But it is going to be vital to our national security and the implementation of our national policy. It is something that cannot be discussed in the open too much without losing its effect. For that reason, it comes under the category of intelligence activities. It is my intention to recommend that the so-called Voice of America program be placed under the Central Intelligence Group, for reasons which I will explain in executive session. I do feel, however, that the present machinery must be maintained now."

My full name is Ellis Mark Zacharias. I am a retired Admiral of the United States Navy. When I retired on 1 November 1946 I had completed over 38 years in the Naval Service. I have served in or operated with all types of ships. I have commanded destroyers, a heavy cruiser and a battleship.

I have completed the senior course at the Naval War College. Practically all of my shore duty has been devoted to Intelligence work, which occupied a total of twelve (12) years in the various phases of that work. While afloat I also engaged in Intelligence Activity which has given me an over-all experience in this field of twenty-five (25) years. The last assignment, between my two sea cruises during the recent war, was that of Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence.

During the war I commanded first the heavy cruiser Salt Lake City until after the Coral Sea Battle and later I commanded the battleship New Mexico and participated in the retaking of the Pacific areas up to and including Guam, Saipan and Tinian. Both ships are still afloat.

As a Lieut-Commander I was assigned to Japan for the purpose of studying the Japanese language and the Japanese people. As a result of that work I was given the task, during the closing phases of the Pacific war, of planning, directing, and conducting the psychological Warfare campaign against the Japanese High Command for the purpose of bringing about the unconditional surrender of the Japanese armed forces without the necessity of a forced invasion of the Japanese main islands.

Having been invited by this Committee to express my opinion of the proposed legislation, H.R.2319, I welcome the opportunity not only because of my concern over our future national security, a subject to which I have devoted intensive and continuing study throughout my 38 years of public service in the Navy, but also because of the apparent lack of comprehension of the dangers which confront us if this legislation is enacted. I say without reservation that this bill presents a danger to us far greater than any possible enemy in the world today, therefore, it should be given the most careful consideration regardless of the length of time required to do so. We have had concrete examples in the immediate past of the results of compromise and appeasement. We can ill-afford to let this creep into considerations of national defense and security.

My first concern about this proposed Merger, Unification, or Amalgamation, is that we must have the right answer. This feeling has been strengthened by recent contact with the public in various parts of the country, (many of them your constituents) in the discussions which have followed my lectures. In these lectures I had avoided bringing up the subject but it was invariably injected by those who showed great concern over the present and future world situation. It was only then that I would discuss it for them on the basis of facts and without any considerations of personal desire. I have come to feel that the motivations behind some of the present proposals are extraneous considerations.